

CORL OF 18 A PRISONER?

Mrs. Maude Kiehl Weeps in Her Cell and Declares She Is Innocent of Murder of Brother-in-Law.

HIS SISTER ACCUSES HER.

Principal Witness for Prosecution Says Prisoner Loved Her Husband's Brother and Tried to Get Him to Marry Her.

(Special to The Evening World.)
CORNLAND, N. Y., Oct. 20.—"Why don't they let me have my baby? I want to go home with my baby to-night. I know nothing about this terrible crime. I want my child."

This is the constant wail of Mrs. Maude Kiehl, the eighteen-year-old widow of William Kiehl, now imprisoned in Cortland jail, awaiting trial on a charge of murdering her brother-in-law.

The central figure in a village tragedy which involves love, disappointment and cold-blooded murder, this fragile little child-woman, shakes her head pitifully when asked about the crime of which she is accused, and pleads only to have her child restored to her.

"There is not one fact of evidence," she declares, "only gossip and the vaguest hints. I know nothing of Adam Kiehl's death. This trouble is driving me mad."

Held by Coroner E. M. Santee, under suspicion of having poisoned Adam Kiehl, Mrs. Kiehl also is accused of the murder of her husband, William, who died last February after convulsions, with a suddenness which aroused comment at the time.

Chemists Find Poison.
Chemists of Cornell University and local doctors have testified to the finding of strychnine in Adam Kiehl's stomach, and the Coroner has ordered that the body of William be exhumed, and an inquiry into the cause of his death.

Before taking this course the Coroner carefully considered the following facts testified to at the inquest by relatives and friends of the dead man.

The accused woman, Maud Kiehl, was at Adam Kiehl's house the day he died, though complaining of a slight cold (Adam Kiehl up to the moment of his death had not been seriously ill).

Mrs. Maude Kiehl, who apparently had loved her brother-in-law, even during her husband's lifetime, had, according to the testimony of the dead man's sister, asked him on the very night of her husband's death, to marry her. Adam Kiehl had refused, saying that he was engaged to marry Amelia Abbott, of Little York, and intended to keep his word with her.

The young widow had since quarreled with her brother-in-law over the sale of her furniture.

Possible Motive for Crime.
On the night of his death she was alone in the house, while his supper was on the stove, waiting for him to return from the farm. She had left the house when Adam Kiehl returned to eat supper.

Dr. E. M. Abbott, Assistant Professor of Chemistry in Cornell University, after submitting a report to the Coroner, Kiehl's body to chemical tests, discovered the presence of strychnine in the body.

Adam Kiehl had bought a small phial of strychnine last summer. It lay in the store, home back of the farm, and according to the murdered man's sister, the quantity was diminished.

Upon these detached bits of circumstantial evidence Coroner Santee decided to hold the young widow for trial. The case will come up for trial before the court of Cortland Village on Tuesday or Wednesday, when Mrs. Kiehl will appear for a hearing.

A motive for the alleged crime is supplied by the strong recurrent of romance running through the case. According to the testimony of witnesses, the girl wife of William Kiehl had her brother-in-law from childhood. Quarrelling with Adam, she had married William, a man a month or two, but soon tiring of the bond, and her husband out of the way, she asked her old lover, Adam, to marry her. His refusal, it is alleged, brought about his death at her hands.

Sister's Damaging Testimony.
At the inquest Miss Frances Kiehl, sister of Adam Kiehl, testified that she kept house for her two brothers, Adam and Henry, on the Hiscock estate near Little York. She told her brother William married Maud Kiehl, of South Oronogo, two years ago, and how William died suddenly last February.

"Maud always seemed to be more in love with Adam than with William," she declared.

"The very night that William died she put her arms about my brother Adam and caressed him tenderly. Adam told me afterward that she asked him then and there to marry her. I told her brother that she could not do so, as he was engaged to Amelia Abbott."

The night before Adam died he was in the best of health save for a slight cold, of which he complained for several days. The Sunday before his death my sister-in-law had come home with me to visit the family. Adam asked me then why I had brought her with me, and I told him it was because she wanted so much to come. She declared to have a settlement with Adam about some furniture she had sold him, and perhaps about his marriage to Amelia Abbott, the wedding having been set for Wednesday of last week.

Adam's Sudden Death.
On Friday, according to Miss Kiehl's testimony, she prepared supper for Adam and as he came on the stove to keep hot for Adam, who had not come home. Mrs. William Kiehl was left alone in the house while Maud Kiehl went to visit a neighbor. Soon Mrs. William Kiehl joined her there and later they went home together.

Adam had then returned and had eaten his supper. He complained of feeling ill, and said that he would take a walk. At 6 o'clock all the members of the family had come down except Adam. Promptly at that time he was found dead, but no movement followed it in the room. His brother Henry went up to call him, and when he found him in the bed, his hands clutched as though in convulsions, Adam Kiehl lay dead.

The widow's hearing was a total denial of any knowledge of the murder. She declared that she had always been friendly, but nothing more. They had had a slight business disagreement over some furniture, she declared, but it had been amicably settled.

PRINCIPALS IN KIEHL POISONING MYSTERY AT CORTLAND AND HISCOCK FARMHOUSE, WHERE TRAGEDY TOOK PLACE.



HOTEL MAN AND \$10,000 MISSING

One Guest at the New Amsterdam, from Which Sickles Disappeared, Had \$8,000 in an Envelope in the Safe.

CLERK'S FAMILY GONE, TOO.

After a delay of nearly twenty-four hours the management of the New Amsterdam Hotel, Twenty-first street and Fourth avenue, have reported to the police that Horatio G. Sickles, a night clerk, is missing and that coincident with his going a large sum of money has disappeared from the safe.

"Rumor at first placed this amount at \$1,000, but later developments would seem to indicate that the loss may aggregate \$10,000 a large portion of which belongs to patrons of the house.

There is a report that one envelope containing \$8,000 had been left for safe keeping and that it cannot be found. The manager of the hotel, Alonzo Foster, is reticent, and Capt. Titus, of Detective Bureau, declines to discuss the matter.

Wife and Children Gone.
From the facts surrounding the case there has grown a well-defined belief that the whole thing was carefully planned. Not only is Sickles missing, but no trace has yet been found of his wife and two children, with whom he lived at No. 137 East Thirty-first street. Their apartments had been vacated and the doors carefully locked.

Sickles, who was married in that city, came from a family of some means, and as he was well recommended, he was given a place at the New Amsterdam. His conduct from the first was exemplary and Manager Foster soon grew to place implicit faith in his honesty.

No Warning or Suspicion.
No suspicion of any wrong doing came into the mind of the hotel management. A watchman was told that Sickles was not behind the counter. This information was conveyed to him by Charles Silvey, a bell boy, who said that the clerk had been missing for some little time.

A hurried search failed to reveal any trace of the clerk about the house and as a consequence Manager Foster was aroused and told of what had happened. He hastened to the office to find the safe locked and the keys missing. It was several hours before duplicates could be procured, and then it was reported that a considerable sum of money could not be accounted for—just how much was not stated. In an inner compartment of the safe was said to be an envelope containing \$8,000 in bills, the property of a guest, which has not been found. According to report there are other and smaller sums that are gone, among which is \$500 belonging to a Dr. Evans.

Bellboy Gives the Alarm.
The first intimation of the matter, it is said, was conveyed to the police by the bellboy, Silvey, who said that Sickles had gone, and he told Sgt. Jordan, of the East Twenty-second street station, that the clerk had taken a lot of the hotel money with him. He then told how he had first suspected that something was wrong and had notified the watchman.

As a result, Detectives Corr, Smith, Palmer and Sheehan were assigned to the case. They went first to Sickles's apartments, to find them tenantless and empty, and that no one had been at home for several days. Corr said that he had information which led him to believe that the missing man had taken a train for Philadelphia.

According to a description of Sickles furnished by the police, he is thirty years old, five feet eight inches tall, smooth-shaven, with dark complexion, hair and eyes, and when last seen wore a black suit and dark derby hat. He is said to be of pleasing address and was well liked by the patrons of the house.

Manager Foster said to-day: "Yes, Sickles is gone. I cannot understand it. He was one of the best men I ever had in my employ and was sober and industrious. His wife, who is a beautiful woman, was an exemplary companion, and he seemed exceedingly fond of her."

DISGRACED BY ARREST, HE DIED

Crazed by Thirst for Whiskey Aged Veteran Committed His First Dishonest Deed and Was Flung Into Police Cell.

BEGGED FRIEND FOR MERCY

Broken-hearted at the disgrace of arrest, John Vanderbeck, sixty years old, of No. 173 East One Hundred and Third street, died this morning in Harlem Hospital, whence he was removed from the East One Hundred and Fourth street police station. Drink drove the old man—a veteran of the civil war—to the only dishonest act of his life.

Saturday found him with his pension money of \$12 spent and a craving for more liquor. How was he to get more money? By begging? No. He had nothing more to pawn. Where could he find something?

Instinctively his mind turned to the rooms of the district Republican club, at No. 238 East One Hundred and Fourth street, where he was wont to spend much of his time.

Pawned Two Stolen Rugs.
Going there, he took two rugs from the floor and pawned them for 50 cents each at Alexander Schlang's, No. 156 Third avenue.

Mrs. Annie Hollander, who takes care of the rooms, was the first to notice the rugs were gone. Her suspicions turned to Vanderbeck that evening when she saw him trying to open the door.

Convinced of his guilt, Mrs. Hollander had him apprehended, but later on, when she witnessed the prisoner's pitiful grief, she endeavored to gain his release.

Pleads with Old Friend.
The old man kept calling for Isaac Newman, leader of the district Republican club, saying that for years he had voted Newman's candidates and that he was sure Newman would befriend him.

Mrs. Hollander went to Newman, but it is said, he turned a deaf ear to her entreaties. She offered to withdraw the complaint if Newman would redeem the rugs. Members of the club asked Newman to intercede, but it is claimed, he declined.

The old man wept and moaned through the night. Dawn discovered him unconscious on the floor of the cell. A short time later he breathed his last at the hospital.

"Grief," said the doctor who felt the pulseless wrist.

PRETTY POLISH GIRL LOST.

Annie Varcy Appeals to a Policeman for Protection.
Unable to tell where she lived, Annie Varcy, a pretty Polish girl, accosted Policeman Sullivan at One Hundred and Tenth street and Fifth avenue and asked him to take care of her. She was sent to Police Headquarters for identification.

LAWYER CARR AGAIN SOUGHT.

Reward Offered for Missing Brooklynite, Who Is Reported in This City After Several Months' Absence.

MUST EXPLAIN ACCOUNTS

Search for Sidney H. Carr, a real estate lawyer, well known in Brooklyn, has been renewed with vigor. Carr disappeared last spring and his ward, Miss Amanda Van Kirk, has been anxious to locate him, as it is claimed her financial affairs, which he managed, couldn't be straightened out until he returns.

The Long Island Realty Company, of which he was secretary, also sought him and has now renewed the efforts to trace him. Ignatz Martin, the president of the concern, has been informed that Carr is in this city and was seen a few days ago on a Broadway car.

A reward has accordingly been offered for information concerning him.

Mr. Martin, who had been reticent concerning Carr's affairs, now states that his accounts were several thousand dollars short and that the company, which has offices at No. 115 Myrtle avenue, Brooklyn, would prosecute him.

There was quite a stir in financial and social circles across the river when Carr disappeared. He occupied a fine suite of rooms in the St. George Hotel, where his ward, Miss Van Kirk, also resided. The lawyer had been appointed guardian for the young woman at the request of her father, who had been one of Carr's closest friends for many years.

That she entrusted her affairs to the lawyer implicitly was known to most of her acquaintances. He was a man about town. He spent money freely, dressed in the height of style, and by many in Brooklyn was characterized as "the old beau." He was about fifty-five years old.

It was generally believed that he was worth considerable money and that he practically owned the Long Island Realty Company.

In April last suddenly dropped out of sight, leaving no explanation of his going away. A search of his effects at the hotel gave no clue to the matter, and as Miss Van Kirk had full confidence in him and the reality company officials declined to admit anything wrong in his accounts, considerable mystery attached to his disappearance.

As no trace of the man could be got after some weeks' absence Miss Van Kirk made an investigation of her financial affairs, and it was said found herself in a difficult position. She packed up her belongings and removed from her apartments in the St. George to a boarding-house, where she has since sought seclusion.

Miss Van Kirk is a charming young woman of much beauty.

MAD MULLAH MAY HAVE SLAIN 3,000

Small Force in Somaliland, If Still Alive, Is Believed to Be in an Exceedingly Perilous Situation.

ENEMY IS 15,000 STRONG.

LONDON, Oct. 20.—The serious reverse in Somaliland places the small British force there, of about 3,000 men of doubtful reliability, in an exceedingly perilous situation.

Since the beginning of Col. Swayne's second campaign against the Mullah last May, little has been heard of the expedition. The present despatches seem to show that he is retreating from the Italian frontier northward when the Mullah attacked him at Ereg.

Last December the Mullah was reported to have about 12,000 men, mostly mounted, a large percentage of whom were armed with rifles. It is possible that he now commands about 15,000 men. With this large force harassing him, Col. Swayne has to retreat to Bofote, 120 miles, and probably still 100 miles further to Harar, the principal British frontier post.

The gravest anxiety will be felt until further news is received. The entire expedition will have to be repeated on a much larger scale.

Col. Swayne is accompanied by twenty white officers and has with him some Maxim guns and some seven-pounders. The British Vice-Consul at Berbera, Somaliland, in cable to the Foreign Office, here, the substance of the latest despatch which he received from Col. Swayne, commander of the British force operating against the Mad Mullah, referred to the Mullah being in communication with "Kali Inger," in the direction of the Webbe River.

Apparently meant "Kali Inger," the former officer of the Austrian-Hungarian Army, who has several times been mentioned in connection with the Mullah's movements in Somaliland. Inger is also said to have caused the British authorities trouble in the Sudan some years ago.

Gen. W. H. Manning started from London for Somaliland some days ago in consequence of bad news from there, and will hasten the despatch of reinforcements from Harar.

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